

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An air compressor comprising:

a compressor body having a base, a compressor, and at least one air tank in fluid connection with the compressor, the at least one air tank having a capacity that is greater than about 0.5 gallons; and

a handle coupled to the compressor body, the handle being configured to be grasped by a hand of a user of the air compressor so that the air compressor can be rotated about a horizontal axis between an operating position and a hand-carried transport position, wherein the compressor body rotates about the horizontal axis when the handle is employed by the user to move the air compressor between the operating and transport positions and wherein the handle is generally parallel to the horizontal axis in each of the operating and transport positions.

2. The air compressor of Claim 1, wherein a center of the handle is positioned in a vertical plane when the air compressor apparatus is positioned in the transport position, the vertical plane extending substantially through a center of gravity (CG_{ACP}) of the air compressor apparatus.

3. The air compressor of Claim 2, wherein the handle is positioned such that when the air compressor apparatus is positioned in the transport position and a user is transporting the air compressor apparatus, the handle is grasped by the hand of a user such that a wrist associated with the hand of the user is not positioned in a state of flexion.

4. The air compressor of Claim 3, wherein the handle is positioned within about 10 inches of the lateral side of the user when the air compressor apparatus is positioned in the transport position, the handle is grasped by the hand of the user and the air compressor package is being transported by the user.

5. The air compressor of Claim 4, wherein the handle is positioned within about 3 inches to about 7 inches of the lateral side of the user when the air compressor apparatus is positioned in the transport position, the handle grasped by the hand of the user and the air compressor package is being transported by the user.

6. The air compressor of Claim 1, wherein the compressor body includes a support cage.

7. The air compressor of Claim 6, wherein the support structure includes a strut member that is disposed between a pair of laterally extending sides, the handle being coupled to the strut member.

8. The air compressor of Claim 6, wherein the at least one air tank is fixedly coupled to the support cage.

9. The air compressor of Claim 1, wherein the capacity of the at least one air tank is about 1 gallon to about 8 gallons.

10. The air compressor of Claim 9, wherein the capacity of the at least one air tank is about 3 gallons to about 5 gallons.

11. The air compressor of Claim 1, wherein the at least one air tank comprises a first cylindrically shaped structure that is mounted such that its longitudinal axis is generally parallel to the horizontal axis.

12. An air compressor comprising:

a compressor body having a base, a compressor and an air tank in fluid connection with the compressor, the air tank having a longitudinal axis;

wherein the compressor body is positionable in an operating position in which the compressor and the air tank are positioned generally horizontally, the compressor body being further positionable in a transport position in which one of the compressor and the air tank is positioned above the other one of the compressor and the air tank;

wherein the compressor body is rotated about an axis that is generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the air tank when the compressor body is moved between the operating position and the transport position.

13. The air compressor of Claim 12, further comprising a handle coupled to the compressor body.

14. The air compressor of Claim 13, wherein a center of the handle is positioned in a vertical plane when the air compressor apparatus is positioned in the transport position, the vertical plane extending substantially through a center of gravity (CG_{ACP}) of the air compressor apparatus.

15. The air compressor of Claim 13, wherein the handle is positioned such that when the air compressor apparatus is positioned in the transport position and the handle is grasped by a hand of a user such that the user is transporting the air compressor apparatus, a wrist of the user is not positioned in a state of flexion and the handle is disposed proximate a lateral side of the user.

16. The air compressor of Claim 15, wherein the handle is positioned within about 10 inches of the lateral side of the user when the air compressor apparatus is positioned in the transport position, the handle is grasped by the hand of the user and the air compressor package is being transported by the user.

17. The air compressor of Claim 16, wherein the handle is positioned within about 3 inches to about 7 inches of the lateral side of the user when the air compressor apparatus is positioned in the transport position, the handle grasped by the hand of the user and the air compressor package is being transported by the user.

18. The air compressor of Claim 12, wherein the base includes a support cage.

19. The air compressor of Claim 18, wherein the support cage includes a strut member that is disposed between a pair of laterally extending sides, the strut member being coupled to or forming the handle.

20. The air compressor of Claim 18, wherein the at least one air tank is fixedly coupled to the support cage.

21. The air compressor of Claim 12, wherein the capacity of the at least one air tank is about 1 gallon to about 8 gallons.

22. The air compressor of Claim 21, wherein the capacity of the at least one air tank is about 3 gallons to about 5 gallons.

23. The air compressor of Claim 12, further comprising a gauge panel coupled to the compressor body and positioned over the air tank when the compressor body is positioned in the operating position.

24. The air compressor of Claim 23, wherein the gauge package includes a regulator and a regulator gauge.

25. The air compressor of Claim 24, wherein at least a portion of the gauge package is rearwardly sloped when the compressor body is positioned in the operating position, the regulator and the regulator gauge being mounted to the rearwardly sloped portion of the gauge package.

26. The air compressor of Claim 25, wherein a pair of quick disconnect couplings are mounted to the rearwardly sloped portion of the gauge package.

27. The air compressor of Claim 25, further comprising an air tank pressure gauge that is mounted to one of the compressor, the air tank and the rearwardly sloped portion of the gauge package.

28. The air compressor of Claim 12, wherein the compressor body further includes a valve coupled to the air tank, the valve being configured to permit the air tank to be drained, the valve extending rearwardly and downwardly from the air tank when the compressor body is positioned in the operating position.

29. An air compressor comprising:

a compressor body having a support structure, a compressor and an air tank in fluid connection with the compressor, the support structure having a tubular frame with a pair of laterally spaced-apart sides, the air tank having a longitudinal axis and being at least partially disposed within a volume defined by the laterally spaced apart sides;

wherein the compressor body is positionable in an operating position in which the compressor and the air tank are positioned generally horizontally, the compressor body being further positionable in a transport position in which one of the compressor and the air tank is positioned above the other one of the compressor and the air tank;

wherein the compressor body is rotated about a rotational axis that is generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the air tank when the compressor body is moved between the operating position and the transport position.

30. The air compressor of Claim 29, further comprising a handle coupled to at least one of the laterally spaced-apart sides.

31. The air compressor of Claim 30, wherein the handle interconnects the laterally spaced-apart sides.

32. The air compressor of Claim 30, wherein a center of the handle is positioned in a vertical plane when the air compressor apparatus is positioned in the transport position, the vertical plane extending substantially through a center of gravity (CG_{ACP}) of the air compressor apparatus.

32. The air compressor of Claim 31, wherein the handle is positioned such that when the air compressor apparatus is positioned in the transport position and the handle is grasped by a hand of a user such that the user is transporting the air compressor apparatus, a wrist of the user is not positioned in a state of flexion and the handle is disposed proximate a lateral side of the user.

33. The air compressor of Claim 30, wherein the handle is generally parallel to the rotational axis in each of the operating and transport positions.

34. The air compressor of Claim 29, wherein the air tank is fixedly coupled to each of the spaced-apart lateral sides.

35. The air compressor of Claim 34, wherein the laterally spaced-apart sides are tangent to the air tank at at least one point.

36. The air compressor of Claim 34, wherein the laterally spaced-apart sides intersect the air tank at at least one point.

37. The air compressor of Claim 29, further comprising a pair of members that are coupled to the support structure and extend outwardly therefrom, the members being configured such that at least one of an electrical cord that is associated with the compressor body and an air hose may be coiled around the members to permit the at least one of the electrical cord and the air hose to be stored thereon.